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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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323 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 403/427-2391 Fax 403/422-6259

The Honourable Stanley Schumacher
Office of the Speaker
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Sir:

I have the honour to hereby transmit the Annual Report of the Department of Environmental Protection for the year ended March 31, 1994.

Respectfully submitted,

TY LUND
Minister

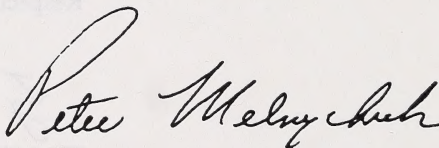
The Honourable Ty Lund
Minister of Environmental Protection
323 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the first Annual Report of Alberta Environmental Protection for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1994.

The department continues to carry out its diverse responsibilities successfully through the hard work and dedication of its staff.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter G. Melnychuk
Deputy Minister

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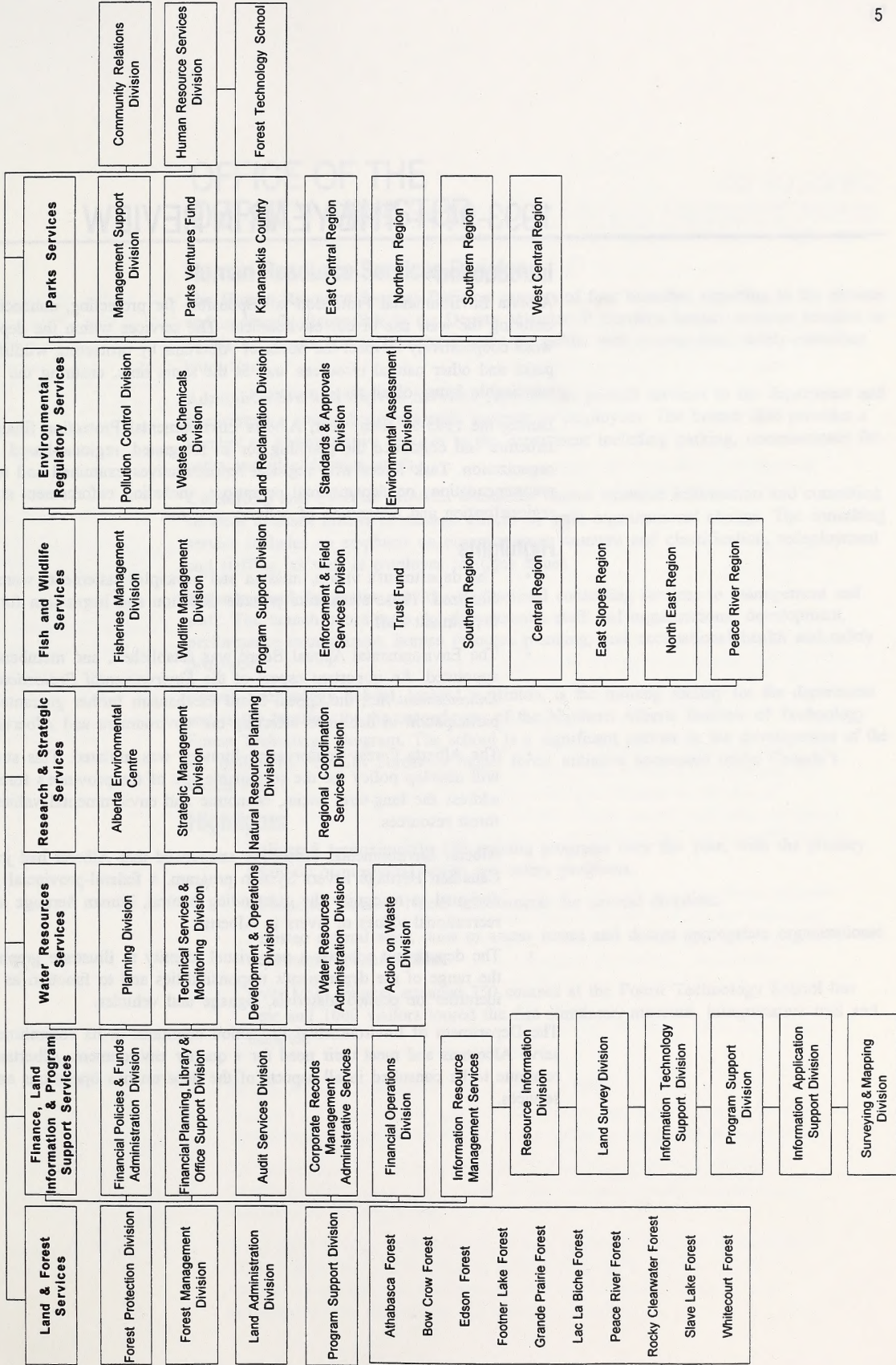
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Hon. Brian Evans
Minister

Peter Melnychuk
Deputy Minister



1993-94 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Introduction

Alberta Environmental Protection is responsible for protecting, enhancing and ensuring the wise use of our environment. The services within the department work cooperatively to meet the needs of Albertans by protecting wildlife, forests, parks and other natural resources and, at the same time, ensuring the sustainable future of all these resources.

During the 1993-94 fiscal year, Alberta Environmental Protection finalized its structure and continued the planning for an integrated, regional-based organization. Task forces with regional representatives examined and made recommendations on departmental operations, including enforcement standards, regionalization and integration of delivery systems.

Highlights

- The department's vision, mission and principles statements were finalized. These statements provide direction and inspiration for department staff.
- The Environmental Appeal Board was established, and members were appointed. An important aspect of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the appeal board mechanism further guarantees public participation in decisions affecting our environment and Albertans.
- The Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy was initiated. This strategy will develop policy for the sustainable use of the province's forests and address the long-term social, economic and environmental values of the forest resources.
- Alberta Environmental Protection announced that Alberta had joined the Canadian Heritage Rivers System program, a federal-provincial program designed to recognize the outstanding natural, human heritage and recreational values of rivers in Alberta.
- The department adopted a new visual identity to illustrate graphically the range of the department's responsibilities and to function as an identifier on printed materials, signage and vehicles.

The Department of Environmental Protection continues in its commitment to serve Albertans and meet their need for a quality environment. Albertans will continue to be consulted in all aspects of the department's operations and services.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

Human Resource Services Division

The Human Resource Services Division consists of four branches reporting to the director and is directly responsible to the Deputy Minister. It provides human resource services to enable the department to effectively serve the public with a competent, safety-conscious work force.

Administrative and Payroll Services provides the payroll services to the department and administers a comprehensive benefit program to employees. The branch also provides a number of administrative services to the department including parking, commissioner for oaths and identification cards.

Consulting and Systems provides automated human resource information and consulting services to assist clients to manage effectively with organizational change. The consulting service includes an emphasis on organizational structure and classification, redeployment and staffing, as well as employee relations issues.

Planning and Programs provides professional consulting services to management and staff. The branch coordinates the department's staff and organizational development, performance management, human resource planning, and occupational health and safety programs.

Forest Technology School, located in Hinton, is the training facility for the department and is the location for the second year of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Forest Technology Program. The school is a significant partner in the development of the 1.2 million-ha Foothills Forest—a model forest initiative sponsored under Canada's Green Plan.

Highlights

- Delivered approximately 100 training programs over the year, with the primary focus on occupational health and safety programs.
- Conducted Training Needs Assessments for several divisions.
- Assisted several work units to assess issues and design appropriate organizational development interventions.
- Over 8000 trainees attended 350 courses at the Forest Technology School last year and 1000 visitors toured the fire simulator, museum, interpretative trail and campus.

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER

Community Relations Division

This division assists the department to communicate with, educate and involve Albertans, staff and other publics in an effective and cost-efficient way. Using a one-window approach, this full-service division supports the communication, public involvement and education activities of the department through the following: issues management and resolution, corporate imaging, media services, special event planning, providing educational support materials, writing and production of print materials, public opinion research, and consultation for and training of departmental staff. Internal department communication is enhanced through publication of the corporate newsletter—EPIC, the bulletin Epigram, and the department's Annual Report.

Highlights

- Public Involvement Guidelines, a brochure setting out the principles behind the department's commitment to public consultation, was produced and distributed throughout the department.
- The corporate visual identity was finalized and standards of production circulated. The visual identity has been incorporated into stationery and numerous publications.

RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC SERVICES

Alberta Environmental Centre

The Alberta Environmental Centre (AEC) supports environmental protection, rehabilitation and management activities by providing research, technology development, diagnostic and analytical services to government agencies, industry and the people of Alberta. The AEC operates six environmental research and laboratory service programs: water and wastewater, air and waste management, trace environmental contaminant analysis, pest management, environmental toxicology, and environmental enhancement.

Its environmental analytical laboratories support the licensing, investigation, monitoring and enforcement activities of Alberta Environmental Protection.

Strategic Management Division

The Strategic Management Division ensures effective corporate and strategic management of future-related activities of the department. The division coordinates the department's strategic and business planning activities, facilitates and coordinates interdepartmental and intergovernmental activities, leads and coordinates policy development and analysis, manages legislative and regulatory review and development initiatives, and provides advice for managing current and future environmental issues.

Natural Resource Planning Division

The division delivers the **Integrated Resource Planning Program**, which puts the Alberta government's philosophy of integrated resource management into effect. The program ensures cooperative decision making on the use of Alberta's public land and resources and the integration of such uses. Integrated resource plans (IRPs) guide the provincial government and the private sector in making decisions.

The division coordinates policy-level referrals through the **Interdepartmental Referral and Coordination Program**. These referrals include the following: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)—indicates at the proposal stage, the environmental consequences of a development; preliminary disclosure—indicates to prospective developers any objections to their plans, in principle, at an early stage; Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing Process (CTRL)—informs prospective developers of the availability of public land; and Energy Resources Conservation Board applications.

Regional Coordination Services Division

Regional Coordination Services Division coordinates the efficient delivery of department programs and services to the public in all provincial regions.

The other main area of responsibility is coordinating the department's involvement in Native land claims, Native self-government initiatives and various other Native issues.

A Regional Resource Coordinator chairs a Regional Resource Management Committee in each of the department's administrative regions. These interagency groups of senior regional staff review public input on land management and commercial and industry activities.

Research and Strategic Services provides timely and high-quality research, strategic services and advice to its clients to meet current and future resource management and environmental challenges. Emphasis is on partnerships within the department, with other provincial departments and agencies of the Alberta government, and with other governments, industry, academia, and nongovernment organizations.

RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC SERVICES

Highlights

- The Alberta Environmental Centre analyzed over 15 000 samples involving 18 500 parameters. It also produced over 150 scientific and technical reports.
- The Centre is patenting a "soil aggregator," to convert contaminated soil into small aggregates for optimal bioremediation and has introduced AEC Highlander, a new variety of native grass, reclaim disturbed sites.
- Centre staff developed a system to rate the susceptibility of soils to rutting during forest harvesting. They taught 250 government and forest industry personnel in the use of the rating system.
- Strategic Management led several departmental strategic planning initiatives to achieve departmental consolidation and integration to complete the 3-year business plan and deregulation action plan.
- Strategic Management directed several interdepartmental and intergovernmental initiatives: the Sustainable Development Coordinating Council, the Environmental Protection Advisory Committee and working groups of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.
- Key federal-provincial agreements under the Canadian *Environmental Protection Act* and the Canadian *Fisheries Act* were negotiated to reduce duplication and costs for both industry and governments.
- Staff developed and represented Alberta's position on the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the environmental side agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- Key strategic initiatives were coordinated by Strategic Management—Forest Conservation Strategy, Water Management Policy and Legislation Review and Clean Air Strategy for Alberta, private conservancy and the department's State of the Environment reporting.
- Staff worked on 16 integrated resource plans and special projects, leading to clear direction for managing public land.
- The following referrals were coordinated: 7 Environmental Impact Assessments, 1 preliminary disclosure, 27 Commercial Tourism and Recreation Leasing applications and 6 Energy Resources Conservation Board applications.
- Significant support continued for the Prairie Conservation Coordinating Committee, which implements the Prairie Conservation Action Plan—a plan to conserve the biological diversity of prairie and parkland ecosystems. In November 1993, commitment made to develop a new Prairie Conservation Action Plan for the period 1995–2000.
- In May 1993, the first Prairie Conservation Awards were presented to three Albertans to recognize outstanding contributions to conserving our prairie and parkland ecosystems.

FINANCE, LAND INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

Financial Policies and Funds Administration Division

The division is responsible for the development and distribution of financial and administrative policies and procedures, capital assessment management, financial control and management of revolving fund entities, trust funds and the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Fund. It is also responsible for the collection, management and reporting of departmental revenue.

Financial Planning, Library and Office Support Division

Budget and Forecast Branch coordinates the planning, presentation and compilation of the department's and the ministry's budget.

Library and Inquiry Services provides library and information services to the department. Private industry, other government departments, students and the public also make use of its resources and services.

Office Support Services provides centralized duplicating, graphic design and creative services to the department.

Accommodation Services provides building maintenance and security in the Edmonton central offices. Provides telecommunications, furniture, photocopying, facsimile and diazo equipment services to the department. Coordinates the department's accommodation needs with Alberta Public Works, Supply and Services.

Audit Services Division

Provides independent appraisals in cooperation with all personnel, to identify areas where improvement is possible and to attain departmental goals. This function supports departmental managers as they strive to find new and better ways to deliver their programs.

Financial Operations Division

This division is responsible for the efficient processing of vendor accounts, contracts and grants; reporting of liabilities; and the administration of a forest fire payroll system for wage staff. It advises departmental staff on financial matters and liaises with control agencies regarding accounting matters.

Information Resource Management Services

Information Resource Management Services is responsible for managing, coordinating and distributing natural resource information on behalf of the department and for providing basic province-wide coverage of surveying and mapping products and services to government and nongovernment users. It aids the development of natural resource information systems and makes land and resource information available to the general public and other government agencies. Extensive contracting for services with the private sector assists in the development of high technology service companies.

Information Application Support and Technology Support provide support for Environmental Protection's information-processing initiatives.

***F**inance, Land Information
and Program Support
Services provides administrative
and support services to the
department in the areas of
natural resource information,
finance and information
technology.*

FINANCE, LAND INFORMATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

Land Survey acts to ensure the preservation and maintenance of the provincial Land Survey system. The division administers the provincial survey legislation and monitors standards that are set in conjunction with private industry and federal agencies. Part of the division's mandate is to provide access to survey information and advisory services to the public, the survey profession and government departments.

Within **Program Support**, the Finance and Administration Section coordinates financial systems, forecasting and monitoring, budget preparation and human resource issues. The administration of the departmental revolving fund is also directed by this section.

Maps Alberta serves as the distribution agent for provincial and federal map and air photo products. It operates as a cost-recovery enterprise under the departmental revolving fund. To provide access to products throughout the province, Maps Alberta maintains a network of private map dealers. The province's collection of aerial photography is made available through Maps Alberta.

The Resource Information Division provides natural resource information products and services to line agencies within Environmental Protection. It operates in partnership with its departmental clients as well as information suppliers and users in the private sector and in other government departments.

Within the **Surveying and Mapping Division**, the Geodetic Survey Branch is responsible for establishing and maintaining the provincial survey control network. The branch provides standards and specifications, and digital and hard copies of positional information for the survey control points.

Coordination of the production of various-scale topographic base maps of the province is the responsibility of the Provincial Mapping Branch. As well as producing hard-copy base maps, the branch administers the provincial 1:20 000 digital base mapping program. A photogrammetric control database covering the province is maintained by the branch.

The Cadastral Mapping Branch creates and maintains digital base mapping of property boundaries throughout Alberta. The Parcel Mapping program, partly funded by the major utility companies, is contracted to the private sector.

Corporate Records Management Administrative Services

The Records Management Program is taking a cooperative approach with all divisions to establish a departmental standard. This effort will result in a one-window approach to organizing information and accessing it. The scheduling and disposition component of the program will ensure realistic retention periods for records. It will also ensure that requirements for the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy legislation are met.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY SERVICES

On September 1, 1993, the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) and regulations were approved and the Act came into effect. This Act, which consolidates 13 separate Acts to allow an integrated approach to protection of the environment, resulted in a reorganization of Alberta Environmental Protection midway through the fiscal year.

Environmental Assessment Division

This division reviews development proposals to determine if they should be subject to the environmental assessment process; administers the province's 10 restricted development areas and provides environmental evaluations for land subdivisions and development; develops provincial ambient guidelines and objectives for chemicals and traditional parameters in various environmental media; and informs and advises the department on special issues regarding chemicals and contaminants.

Waste and Chemicals Division

Up until September 1, 1993, the Waste and Chemicals Division promoted waste reduction and recycling strategies by funding municipal recycling projects and preparing resource material. The division also provided capital funds and technical assistance to municipalities for regional waste management systems and administered the beverage container recovery system by reviewing, approving and inspecting beverage container depots. After September 1, 1993, these activities became the responsibility of the Action on Waste Division of Water Resources Services.

The Waste and Chemicals Division ensures that human impact on groundwater is within acceptable limits, and that those responsible for groundwater contamination undertake reclamation. It assesses soil on contaminated sites, studies the land application of industrial and municipal wastes and the soil effects from acidic deposition, and provides laboratory support for analyses of soil, water and waste materials. The pesticide management program covers certification and licensing, issuing and monitoring of permits for pesticide use, enforcement of the agricultural chemicals provisions of EPEA, managing technical and financial assistance programs, and education and liaison. The division administers the hazardous chemicals provisions of EPEA and associated regulations, manages industrial waste management projects, decommissioning and clean-up of industrial plant sites, and coordinates departmental input into approval processes for sanitary and municipal landfills.

Standards and Approvals Division

This division issues environmental approvals under the *Clean Air and Clean Water Acts* (before September 1, 1993) and the EPEA (after September 1, 1993) for industrial and municipal developments that release substances to the environment. Approvals address construction, operation, emissions, performance, monitoring, reporting and reclamation. Approvals are also issued for municipal drinking water systems. Source water and drinking water monitoring reports are reviewed and follow-up action taken as required. The division also delivers a water and wastewater operator certification and training program.

Environmental Regulatory Services ensures a comprehensive and integrated approach is taken to environmental protection. Comprehensive environmental evaluations are carried out before projects are developed. A high priority is placed on preventing problems through planning. Stringent environmental protection standards are applied, through permits and licensing, to minimize both generation of contaminants and their release to the environment. Monitoring the environment—air, water, soil, wastes and pesticides—ensures standards are followed and environmental quality is maintained. Enforcement activities are carried out, when necessary, to ensure compliance with standards. Research activities focus on finding applied solutions to environmental problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY SERVICES

Pollution Control Division

Responsible for firm and fair enforcement of environmental legislation, the division investigates pollution incidents, provides an emergency response function, and reviews and evaluates non-compliance, recommending appropriate enforcement action.

Land Reclamation Division

Administers the *Land Surface Conservation and Reclamation Act* and, since September 1, 1993, Part 5 and Part 2, Division 2 of EPEA. Reviews proposed developments that disturb land and grants conditional approvals that set land conservation and reclamation requirements. Inspects sites to enforce and improve conservation and reclamation. Administers the Surface Reclamation Fund, which consists of security deposits paid by developers, to support satisfactory reclamation of disturbed land. Carries out reclamation of abandoned municipal disturbances and reclamation research through the Heritage Savings Trust Fund Reclamation Program.

Highlights

- In total, 234 Permits to Construct and 27 first-time Licences to Operate were issued under the *Clean Water Act* for municipal systems. An additional 132 Licences to Operate were amended or renewed and 100 Letters of Permission were issued or amended. Approvals were issued for 34 municipal systems under the new *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and 122 Authorizations were granted under this legislation. Under the Water and Wastewater Certification Program, 1154 new and renewed certificates were issued.
- For industrial facilities, 74 Permits to Construct were issued under the *Clean Air Act* and 65 were issued under the *Clean Water Act*. A total of 279 new or renewed Licences to Operate were issued to industry under the *Clean Air Act* and 202 under the *Clean Water Act*. Under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, 92 construction and operating approvals were issued for industrial operations.
- The Pollution Control Division's Emergency Response Centre received 10 055 calls of which 7219 related to individual pollution incidents. 1215 investigations were conducted.
- The Pollution Control Division initiated eight prosecutions with a total of 26 charges laid, and concluded eight prosecutions with a total of 189 charges. It also issued 9 orders, 41 warning letters and 3 tickets.
- Provincial and municipal government reclamation inspectors monitored the operation of 1400 development and reclamation approvals, 13 exploration approvals and 5200 other industrial sites. Out of 1240 applications for reclamation certificates, 760 were issued. No reclamation orders were issued.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY SERVICES

- Seven Environmental Impact Assessment reports were reviewed, and another additional six reports remained "in progress."
- Under the *Agricultural Chemicals Act*, 429 pesticide applicator licences and certificates, 278 pesticide vendor licences and approvals, 245 aquatic permits and special use approvals, and 290 pesticide permits were issued, and 112 investigations were initiated. Under the new *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, 1049 pesticide applicator licences and certificates, 272 pesticide vendor licences and approvals and 1 special use approval were issued.

WATER RESOURCES SERVICES

Technical Services and Monitoring Division

This division provides information to enable Water Resources and the department to carry out water management and regulatory responsibilities. The division collects surface water quantity and quality data, monitors and forecasts water levels and flows, evaluates flood and erosion control measures, produces flood risk maps, provides engineering survey services, monitors and assesses groundwater conditions, and administers the Water Well Regulation of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

Development and Operations Division

This division is responsible for implementing surface water management and control projects, as well as operating and maintaining 244 provincial water management projects and seven major headworks systems that support sustainable development in the province.

The Director's Office manages and administers the Water Management Systems Improvement Program, funded under the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

This 15-year program, initiated in 1980, provides funding for the rehabilitation and improvement of headworks and main canal systems, development of offstream storage reservoirs and water supply projects in southern Alberta and in the Special Areas.

Water Resources Administration Division

This division administers and enforces the *Water Resources Act* and Regulations, the Provincial Water Power Regulation, the Dam and Canal Safety Regulation and the *Drainage Districts Act*. Services such as licensing, field inspection and monitoring dam safety are provided to the general public, local authorities, industry and other government departments. In addition, this division administers the Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Program, which provides financial assistance to local authorities.

Planning Division

This division provides planning and policy development to ensure sound management of Alberta's water resources and undertakes the following main activities:

- develops, monitors and reviews plans related to water quantity and quality in each river basin;
- provides technical advice to the department's licensing and permitting processes;
- assists the department in interjurisdictional activities;
- develops and recommends changes to policies, programs and legislation;
- provides input to referral processes and other agencies' planning processes;

Water Resources Services has stewardship of water resources within the province and for water resource matters held in common with other provinces and the federal government. It also implements programs to minimize the disposal of solid waste and reduce the number of municipal landfills and orphan contaminated industrial sites in the province.

The Assistant Deputy Minister represents Alberta on the Prairie Provinces Water Board and on the Mackenzie River Basin Committee. The Assistant Deputy Minister also represents Alberta Environmental Protection on the Alberta Water Resources Commission and the Montana - Alberta Border Advisory Committee. During 1993-94, he also served as a member of the Oldman River Dam Review Board and was the Co-Chairman of the Northern River Basins Study Board.

WATER RESOURCES SERVICES

- evaluates environmental and socio-economic impacts of proposed planning options, and prepares environmental evaluations and impact assessments for proposed projects;
- develops strategies for water conservation; and
- supports departmental initiatives in education and communications.

Action on Waste Division

This division's mission is to achieve a 50 percent reduction in solid waste disposal by the year 2000 and support the proper management of waste. The division promotes and encourages waste reduction and recycling strategies, coordinates government waste minimization initiatives, and provides capital funds and technical assistance to municipalities for landfill replacement, waste minimization programs and regional waste management systems. It develops industry stewardship programs such as the beverage container recovery system and promotes market development initiatives. The division develops and implements public awareness programs and prepares resource materials for individuals, municipalities, businesses and industries. Orphan industrial properties are identified and reclaimed.

Highlights

- The Resource Recovery Grant Program supplied grants totalling \$1.86 million to 42 municipalities and nonprofit organizations to start recycling projects or conduct waste minimization studies.
- A common collection system was implemented for beverage containers, resulting in the recovery of 520 million beverage containers.
- New initiatives to foster sound management practices were developed for composting, used oil, oil containers and oil filters.
- The Service took on the responsibilities for water quality data collection and assessment. Water quality data collection activities have been consolidated in the Surface Water Monitoring Branch, which is responsible for surface water monitoring and forecasting. Water quality assessments are now carried out in the Surface Water Assessment Branch, which also has responsibilities for water quantity assessments.
- The flood risk area for the town of Slave Lake was designated under the Canada/Alberta Flood Damage Reduction Program. The federal and provincial ministers approved designations for Canmore, Cardston and Athabasca. Flood risk maps were completed for three communities and negotiations to accept flood risk maps were undertaken with six others.

LAND AND FOREST SERVICES

Forest Management Division

The Forest Management Division operates programs that contribute to sustainable forest development across the province. Field and head office staff are involved in forest inventory and resource planning; monitoring of tree harvesting and manufacturing activities; forest revenue and fine collection (stumpage fees, permits and violations); reforestation—including the operation of the provincial tree nursery at Smoky Lake; enforcement of ground rules and regulations including "Free-to-Grow" reforestation standards; stand tending; and forest research in the areas of genetics, growth and yield.

Forest Protection Division

This division plans and delivers programs in forest fire prevention, detection, preparedness and suppression; insect and disease monitoring and control; and the use of prescribed fire. Operating from the Provincial Forest Fire Centre in Edmonton, the division, in conjunction with regional and district offices, maintains a network of lookout towers, air tanker bases, fire equipment caches and staging camps in the forest protection area of Alberta. The service participates in mutual fire aid activities with other provinces and territories as well as the United States.

Land Administration Division

The Land Administration Division administers the disposition of publicly owned land in the White Area (settled) and Green Area of Alberta. These lands may be leased for grazing, cultivation, recreation, tourism, commercial and industrial activities; or sold for farms, plant sites or commercial/business purposes. The division also oversees Foreign Ownership and Land Agents Licensing programs.

Program Support Division

Program Support is involved in the coordination, development and delivery of the Service's policies and procedures; human resource management; financial and administrative services to headquarters and field staff; administration and delivery of federal/provincial forestry agreement programs; operation of the Junior Forest Warden and Junior Forest Ranger forest education/work experience programs; planning and delivery of public involvement and communication programs; construction and maintenance of the Service's facilities; warehousing and mechanical repair of the Service's vehicles and equipment; administrative support to the Alberta Forest Research Advisory Council; and maintenance of the Service's automated information systems.

Highlights

- The Service responded to 848 fires, which burned 25 632 ha within the forest protection area.
- During this year, 250 emergency firefighters completed the provincial training course. With these additions, Alberta's firefighter level is being maintained at 6000 people.

Land and Forest Services is responsible for the proper use, management, allocation and protection of Alberta's public lands.

In the Green Area (Crown forest land encompassing about 54 percent of the provincial land base), the Service undertakes programs in timber management, planning, inventory, range and protection of watersheds; reforestation and reclamation; fire suppression and prevention; insect and disease control; and recreation and education through Junior Forest Warden and Junior Forest Ranger programs. On public land within the White Area (the settled part of the province) and the Green Area, the Service regulates petroleum and natural gas exploration activities; and oversees oil sands, coal, geophysical and land dispositions.

LAND AND FOREST SERVICES

Highlights (cont.)

- The spruce budworm continued to be a serious pest concern in the province. During 1993-94, the Service applied a biological insecticide to 8230 ha of forests.
- By March 31, 1994, there were nearly 100 000 dispositions (e.g., leases, permits, licences and land sales agreements) in effect on Alberta's public land. These dispositions cover approximately 2.835 million ha (7 million ac.) in the Green and White Areas of the province.
- Applications received by the Service for use of public land increased by 50 percent (to 8300) during 1993-94. Most of this increase was due to greater industrial activity in the oil and natural gas sector.

<u>Reforestation Activities</u>	<u>Area Covered*</u>
Regeneration surveys	13 000 ha
Site preparation work	8 000 ha
Planting (15.0 million seedlings)	10 500 ha
Stand Tending:	
Manual mechanical	160 ha
Sheep grazing	<u>290 ha</u>

* Estimates only. Final 1993-94 figures available in November 1994.

- In the second year of the Canada-Alberta Partnership Agreement in Forestry (CAPAF), activity in the Reforestation/Intensive Forest Management Program included tree planting (3200 ha) and site preparation (4400 ha).

Several new publications were developed to assist the public in identifying and managing forest resources on their private lands.

- The Forest Development Research Trust Fund (FDRTF) provided \$164 000 during 1993-94 to support research initiatives. During the fiscal year, the fund supported research studies in the following areas: forest tent caterpillar, forest growth projection methods, gall rust, aspen regeneration, and drought resistance of white spruce.
- The Junior Forest Ranger (JFR) Program continues to be a very attractive summer work experience option for youths aged 16 - 18 years. Well over 1000 applications were received for the camps, which are jointly funded by industry and Land and Forest Services. In total, eight camps were in operation between July 4 and August 24, 1993.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES

Fisheries Management Division

The division manages fish populations and their habitats in the water bodies of the province. Working closely with local public advisory committees, it sets policy goals that conserve the fisheries resource and reflect the needs of the respective communities. It monitors fish populations, fish habitats, and the activities of sport anglers and commercial fishermen. The division hatches and raises various species of fish for stocking into lakes and streams. Under the Buck for Wildlife Program, and in cooperation with various interest groups, the division protects and enhances fish habitats.

Wildlife Management Division

The Wildlife Management Division manages the populations and habitats of Alberta's birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Working with public interest groups, it sets policy goals with respect to conservation of the wildlife resource and the needs of the people. The division monitors wildlife populations, wildlife habitat, and the activities of hunters, trappers and Albertans who watch wildlife. It manages and protects species that are endangered or threatened with extinction in the province. Under the Buck for Wildlife Program, and in cooperation with various interest groups, it protects and enhances wildlife habitats.

Enforcement-Field Services Division

This division enforces fish and wildlife regulations as prescribed by legislation. It coordinates the delivery of enforcement and public service programs to the regions. Working with local volunteers, the division delivers conservation and hunter education programs throughout the province. It coordinates the Report A Poacher Program, which encourages Albertans to report suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife and environmental legislation.

Program Support Division

This division provides support services within the Service, including budgeting, personnel, technical support, inventory and private sector licence vendor support.

The Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Established under the *Wildlife Act* to finance programs that protect and enhance fish, wildlife and their habitats, the fund also sponsors programs to prevent wildlife damage, and promote the development and use of humane traps. Each program is funded by the sales of various licences and donations from the public. Buck for Wildlife, Report A Poacher, Fisheries Management Enhancement, Wildlife Management Enhancement and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan are some of the programs financed, at least in part, by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

*F*ish and Wildlife Services is a conservation agency managing the province's fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all Albertans. It enforces fishing, hunting and trapping regulations, and manages fish and wildlife populations and habitats to meet the needs of local residents and visitors to the province. Fish and Wildlife Services encompasses 63 district offices and 5 regional offices. The district offices are responsible for providing enforcement, licensing, information and assistance with fish and wildlife concerns all at the community level. The regional offices oversee and assist the districts by providing biological expertise and coordination of enforcement activities.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES

Highlights

- Following a four-year absence, the Cold Lake Fish Hatchery returned to normal operations in February 1993, with an ozone disinfection system. The hatchery achieved full production in 1994.
- Walleye Task Force created to devise a walleye management strategy.
- Buck for Wildlife completed 51 wildlife and 46 fish habitat projects, and funded 37 wildlife and 12 fish projects run by nongovernment groups.
- Alberta was represented on 14 National Recovery Teams created under the RENEW process (Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife). National recovery plans for the Baird's sparrow and roseate tern were published, and national plans for several species were approved. Provincial programs for endangered species included reintroduction of swift fox and peregrine falcon, and cooperative surveys, habitat management and research programs for various species.
- The Wildlife Management Enhancement Program fund was established to receive dedicated revenue from various public and corporate sectors. Over the past year, 22 wildlife enhancement initiatives were funded.
- Management plans for black bears and bighorn sheep in Alberta were published. An extensive inventory program of northern moose populations was completed. Surveys of resident moose, elk and deer hunters were completed to assess hunter satisfaction levels, opinions on various issues and preferences in hunting management.
- Watchable Wildlife Program published *Developing Your Wildlife Viewing Site* for use by agency staff and community groups. The second Watchable Wildlife Calendar, coordinated the efforts of major conservation sponsors and nonprofit groups to generate funds for conservation activities.
- The Outfitter-Guide Policy for Alberta was revised and became effective for the 1993 hunting season. In total, 6674 allocations were held by 240 outfitter-guides for use in 1993.
- A total of 3734 reports of illegal fish and wildlife activity was received in 1993-94. As a result, Fish and Wildlife Officers laid 930 charges and 221 individuals became eligible for awards totalling \$68 200.
- Sportfishing licence sales increased, with 240 911 licences sold in 1993-94—up from 235 218 licences sold in 1992-93. Wildlife certificate sales to hunters continued to decline, from 112 036 sold in 1992-93 to 106 625 in 1993-94.
- The value of fur production for 1993-94 was \$3.24 million, as compared to the 1992-93 value of \$2.15 million.
- Commercial fishing seasons were scheduled at 88 lakes and reservoirs. The estimated harvest was 1 889 000 kg; landed value was \$2 260 888. Approximately 60 percent of the catch is sold to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation; the balance is sold locally in Alberta.

PARKS SERVICES

Regions

Alberta Parks Services operates on a regional basis, with each region responsible for the operation and development of Alberta Parks Services' programs and initiatives within a geographical area.

The **Northern Regional** office is located in Valleyview, with two district offices located in Valleyview and Slave Lake.

East Central Region's main office is located in Lac La Biche. District offices are located in Lac La Biche and St. Albert.

Headquartered in Vulcan, **Southern Region's** district offices are found in Lethbridge, Brooks and Cypress Hills Provincial Park.

The **West Central Regional** office, located in Rimbey, provides support to district offices in Aspen Beach and Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Kananaskis Country operations are directed out of a Canmore office and three district offices within Kananaskis Country. Kananaskis Country, including 3 provincial parks and 87 provincial recreation areas, consists of 404 801 ha of Crown land and strongly emphasizes tourism and recreation. Areas located outside of provincial parks and provincial recreation areas, but within Kananaskis Country boundaries, are considered multi-use and managed to facilitate opportunities for natural resource development.

Management Support Division

Management Support Division is responsible for development and coordination of Parks policies and helps determine general direction for the province's conservation and outdoor recreation programs. The division plays a significant role in the development of major conservation initiatives as well as the lead role in inter-agency relations; examples are work related to Special Places 2000: Alberta's Natural Heritage and the development of a land classification system, and cooperative efforts with agencies represented on the Federal-Provincial Parks Council.

Specifically, the division is responsible for parks' system long-range planning such as the Special places initiative, land acquisitions, coordinating the natural areas and ecological reserves programs, interdepartmental referrals, natural heritage education programs, and managing Alberta's responsibilities related to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Systems Program.

From an operations point of view, the division develops, coordinates and maintains provincial programs, policies and systems related to park management, resource protection, operations and service delivery as well as ongoing support to the regions.

Finally, the division provides support in the areas of finance and administration, e.g., budget planning and materials coordination.

Parks Services is responsible for the planning, development and operation of Alberta's 65 provincial parks, 241 provincial recreation areas, 14 ecological reserves, 3 wilderness areas, 123 designated natural areas and 189 reserved natural areas. The Service plans, develops and operates facilities to support both recreation and conservation initiatives.

Committed to providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities, the Service contributes significantly to the government's efforts to protect and preserve our culture, heritage and natural resources and promote outdoor tourism.

Alberta Parks Services' facilities, program delivery and parks policies are managed and administered at the regional and district levels.

Parks Ventures Fund

The Parks Ventures Fund works in concert with Alberta Parks Services to provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to contribute to recreation, parks or wildlife projects in Alberta. The Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation's Parks Ventures Fund receives support from Alberta Parks Services. The fund contributes to park enhancement and conservation enrichment programs in Alberta. The fund is an arm of the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation and acts as an active land trust. To this end, the Parks Ventures Fund enables individuals and organizations to make donations, apply for grants, or volunteer in support of projects that enhance preservation and protection of Alberta's natural heritage.

Highlights

- Figure Eight Lake Provincial Recreation Area was dedicated after redevelopment. This project represented contributions from Figure Eight Lake Recreation Association, the Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and Alberta Parks Services.
- Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park was recognized as a major preservation/conservation site containing significant heritage and cultural values through the issuing of a special "Parks of Canada" postage stamp.
- Dinosaur Provincial Park was expanded through cooperation with the Eastern Irrigation District for the protection of lands with significant cultural, heritage and wildlife values. The boundaries of the World Heritage Site, which encompasses Dinosaur Provincial Park, were expanded as well.
- Private sector involvement increased in Cypress Hills Provincial Park, through a campground operations contract.
- From March to September 1993, 1348 volunteers contributed 14 316 person-hours of work in the West Central Region. These numbers are indicative of volunteer contributions to Alberta Parks Services operations across the system.
- Alberta Parks Services was assigned the responsibility of administering all aspects related to the implementation of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System Program.
- Special Places 2000 Advisory Committee released its report, which will be considered by Government.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Revenues
Statement of Expenditures

STATEMENT OF REVENUES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1994

	1994	1993
Taxes	\$ 0	\$ 23,000
Payments from Government of Canada:		
Timber export tax transfers	0	2,063,000
Other	3,513,000	3,061,000
	<u>3,513,000</u>	<u>5,124,000</u>
Fees, Permits and Licences:		
Timber rentals and fees	23,839,000	29,539,000
Lands and grazing	26,395,000	23,897,000
Game	5,563,000	5,539,000
Camping Fees	3,105,000	3,250,000
Fishing	1,497,000	1,726,000
Provincial park land disposition	539,000	597,000
Water power	335,000	308,000
Other	680,000	542,000
	<u>61,953,000</u>	<u>65,398,000</u>
Other Revenue		
Investment income	683,000	760,000
Refunds of expenditure:		
Pollution Control Division	32,000	740,000
Previous years' refunds	669,000	494,000
Alberta Environmental Centre	81,000	427,000
Services and supplies to staff	375,000	309,000
Other	90,000	578,000
Sales of assets:		
Land	3,935,000	2,214,000
Homesteads	(22,000)	(54,000)
Miscellaneous:		
Provincial parks concessions	785,000	744,000
Rentals	262,000	338,000
Water resources	113,000	100,000
Shearwater-Deadfish water supply	93,000	88,000
Provincial parks	73,000	80,000
Utilities	60,000	63,000
Blood Tribe	36,000	62,000
Kroeger Water Commission	25,000	27,000
Other	1,206,000	1,032,000
	<u>8,496,000</u>	<u>8,002,000</u>
Total revenue	<u>\$ 73,962,000</u>	<u>\$ 78,547,000</u>

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

BY PROGRAM AND SUB-PROGRAM

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1994

Program Sub-Program	Total Authorized	Total Expended	Unexpended (Over-Expended)
Departmental Support Services	\$ 15,216,000	\$ 14,799,000	\$ 417,000
Environmental Regulatory Services			
Land Conservation	4,344,000	3,896,000	448,000
Environmental Assessment	6,290,000	5,867,000	423,000
Standards and Approvals	4,996,000	4,682,000	314,000
Wastes and Chemicals	16,933,000	16,669,000	264,000
Pollution Control	3,836,000	3,307,000	529,000
Environmental Research	10,956,000	11,311,000	(355,000)
Strategic Management and Regional Coordination	2,517,000	2,394,000	123,000
Resource Planning	1,222,000	1,298,000	(76,000)
	51,094,000	49,424,000	1,670,000
Water Resources Management			
Surface Water Development and Operations	21,742,000	20,947,000	795,000
Water Resources Administration	9,602,000	10,128,000	(526,000)
Water Resources Planning and Coordination	4,516,000	4,654,000	(138,000)
Data Collection and Inventory	9,504,000	9,169,000	335,000
	45,364,000	44,898,000	466,000
Fish and Wildlife Conservation			
Program Support	9,914,000	9,232,000	682,000
Wildlife Management	3,803,000	3,810,000	(7,000)
Fisheries Management	4,818,000	4,797,000	21,000
Enforcement Services	9,829,000	10,299,000	(470,000)
	28,364,000	28,138,000	226,000
Land and Forests Services			
Program Support	16,861,000	21,995,000	(5,134,000)
Forest Land Use	8,100,000	7,062,000	1,038,000
Reforestation	19,048,000	17,582,000	1,466,000
Timber Management	7,417,000	7,574,000	(157,000)
Forest Protection	15,680,000	13,134,000	2,546,000
Fire Suppression	35,114,000	34,453,000	661,000
Land Administration	6,333,000	6,290,000	43,000
Land Information Services	17,106,000	17,476,000	(370,000)
	125,659,000	125,566,000	93,000

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

BY PROGRAM AND SUB-PROGRAM

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1994

Program Sub-Program	Total Authorized	Expended	Unexpended (Over-Expended)
Provincial Parks and Kananaskis Country			
Parks - Program Support	2,485,000	2,499,000	(14,000)
Parks - Operations	23,513,000	23,337,000	176,000
Parks - Construction and Upgrading	2,798,000	2,707,000	91,000
Kananaskis - Program Support	747,000	796,000	(49,000)
Kananaskis - Operations	7,874,000	8,000,000	(126,000)
Kananaskis - Redevelopment and Construction	2,527,000	2,417,000	110,000
	<u>39,944,000</u>	<u>39,756,000</u>	<u>188,000</u>
Administrative Appeal Services Environmental Appeal Board	<u>150,000</u>	<u>89,000</u>	<u>61,000</u>
Special Waste Management Assistance	<u>26,233,000</u>	<u>26,192,000</u>	<u>41,000</u>
Overview and Coordination of Environmental Conservation	<u>1,527,000</u>	<u>1,468,000</u>	<u>(59,000)</u>
	<u>333,551,000</u>	<u>330,330,000</u>	<u>3,221,000</u>
OPERATING EXPENDITURE - STATUTORY			
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Revolving Fund	(138,000)	(283,000)	145,000
Forestry, Lands and Wildlife Revolving Fund	<u>676,000</u>	<u>289,000</u>	<u>387,000</u>
	<u>538,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>532,000</u>
TOTAL 1994	<u>\$ 334,089,000</u>	<u>\$ 330,336,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,753,000</u>
TOTAL 1993	<u>\$ 367,996,000</u>	<u>\$ 362,327,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,669,000</u>

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